

In re Patent Application of:

Daniell

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In the Abstract

In response to the Examiner's concern that the Abstract is not sufficiently descriptive of the invention, please cancel the Abstract and substitute the new version as set forth below. The replacement Abstract introduces no new matter and is fully supported in the specification as filed.

Disclosed is a transformation vector effective for stably transforming a plastid genome. The vector includes, as operably-linked components, a first flanking sequence, at least one DNA sequence coding for a mercuric ion reductase (*merA*) and an organomercurial lyase (*merB*), a sequence encoding an antibiotic-free selectable marker, and a second flanking sequence. Preferably, the antibiotic-free selectable marker includes a polynucleotide encoding betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase.